

January 22, 2007

The Honorable Robert Walkup
and City Council Members
City of Tucson
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, Arizona 85726

RE: 2006 CPARB (Citizen Police Advisory Review Board) Annual Report

Although CPARB struggled through two major issues this year, it fulfilled its goals "to foster and encourage a citizen police partnership ... and to develop and maintain positive communications and mutual understanding and trust between the police and community." To that end, CPARB reviewed more than 30 completed investigations of citizen complaints alleging police officer misconduct.

Following the April 10, 2006, political demonstrations primarily concerning immigration, several citizens spoke to the Board about alleged police misconduct. CPARB requested reports from the Tucson Police Department (TPD) to find the sources of those allegations. TPD responded with several reports both acknowledging some errors and implementing new procedures to prevent those errors from occurring again. In addition to those reports, four CPARB members viewed all of the tapes of the April 10 event in an effort to understand more about police procedure; to ask pertinent questions about those procedures; to discover the truth about some allegations; and to make recommendations for the future.

The second issue with which CPARB struggled arose from citizen complaints about the peace demonstrations which occurred weekly at the Speedway recruiting center. Peace demonstrators attended several meetings demanding action from CPARB during the call to the audience. The demonstrators were told that CPARB could only act on closed complaints and explained how complaints could be filed. Despite the number of citizens who spoke at the meetings, very few complaints were formally lodged. In an effort to understand the situation more clearly, CPARB asked TPD to discuss the situation and explain the actions which could be taken by the police to maintain order. CPARB also asked the representative from the City Attorney's Office to explain CPARB's responsibilities and limitations in the matter, especially in view of the constitutional rights of all people to make their views known. As a result of those presentations, CPARB made two recommendations: first, that TPD attempt to create more of a presence at the Speedway site by extra drive-bys; and second, that TPD place officers at the scene when they could do so without taking those officers away from more pressing matters. Additionally, in an effort to find some equitable solution to the continuing problem, mediation was suggested. Liana Perez took the initiative and found people to represent the

peace demonstrators, but no one on the pro-war side could be found who would speak for those demonstrators.

With regard to membership, Vicki Hart left the board in October after reaching the maximum term allowed by mandate. Her deep commitment both as chairman and as a member was missed. CPARB also lost Jeremy Tor who brought a new vitality to the group. Michael Elsner, Ray Siquieros, Hector Morales, Edward Ware, and Evelyn Alvarez were appointed as voting members. Later, Mr. Siquieros resigned and Mr. Morales was removed for non-attendance. Advisory member Ronald Peetz resigned. Following interviews, Joaquin Murrieta and Jennifer Lopez joined the board as non-voting advisory members. Near the end of 2006, advisory member Bruce Cameron who had managed the CPARB website moved out of the city and the board decided to ask Joel Patterson to replace him. Mr. Patterson had been the third choice after all of the interviews in September were completed. The chairman of CPARB hopes that the current vacancy on the board will be filled by one of the advisory members who has shown great interest in the workings of the board and has spent considerable time in the interview process to make sure the only agenda brought to the board is to follow the mandates of the Mayor and Council and remain fair and just. The chairman of CPARB also believes that the selection of an advisory member to serve as a voting member would be beneficial to the group as a whole.

CPARB welcomed Kris Page-Iverson as the representative of the City Attorney's Office after Michael Anderson retired. Ms. Page-Iverson has been a great help in revamping the agendas to serve the goals of the City of Tucson and CPARB more clearly. TPD's Internal Affairs liaison Lt. Jim McShea was replaced by Lt. Rick Wilson in January and, at the end of the year, Capt. Robert Shoun replaced Captain Rozema as the head of Internal Affairs. Lt. McShea, Lt. Wilson, and Capt. Rozema were unhesitatingly honest and helpful to CPARB by providing information and responses to queries on the part of board members.

Thanks to the generosity of the Mayor and Council, two CPARB members were able to attend the NACOLE convention held in Boise in September. Their attendance provided insights which have aided the board in its review process. In addition, the yearly training also funded by the Mayor and Council proved to be extremely useful. CPARB wants to thank the Mayor and Council for providing the funding for these two valuable events.

CPARB would like to specifically thank the members of the Tucson Police Department under the leadership of Chief Richard Miranda who aided the board in its reviews of cases; who helped with the required training; and who honestly and completely answered questions about procedures even when some of those questions were very difficult. In general, the working relationship between CPARB and the Tucson Police Department has been cooperative and open and will hopefully continue to be so in the future.

CPARB would also like to thank Ms. Liana Perez, the Independent Police Auditor who gave of her time and considerable knowledge to make this board more efficient, educated, and aware. Her help and willingness to take on extra work on this board's behalf were much appreciated. In addition, CPARB would like to thank the City Clerk's Office and, in particular, Ms. Beth Tidwell, for their help with all of the necessary mailings, correspondence, arrangements, and note taking.

Finally, CPARB would like to note that despite the fact that its voting and non-voting members are volunteers, each person takes the work very seriously. The purpose of CPARB was fulfilled in 2006 and will endeavor to do so again in 2007.

Respectfully yours,

Cynthia "Cindy" Schiesel
Chairperson

CC: Mr. Mike Hein, City Manager
Chief Richard Miranda, TPD
Deputy Chief Kermit Miller, TPD
Captain Terry Rozema, TPD
Captain Robert Shoun, TPD
Lt. Rick Wilson, TPD
Lt. Jim McShea, TPD
Ms. Liana Perez, Independent Police Auditor
Ms. Kris Page-Iverson, Senior Assistant City Attorney
CPARB Board Members
CPARB Advisory Board Members
CPARB Ex-Officio Members